

COMMISSIONERS APPROVAL

GRANDSTAFF

ROKOSCH *ggr*

THOMPSON

CHILCOTT

DRISCOLL *✓*

PLETTENBERG (Clerk & Recorder)

Members Present.....Commissioner Carlotta
Grandstaff, Commissioner Jim Rokosch, Commissioner Alan Thompson, Commissioner
Greg Chilcott and Commissioner Kathleen Driscoll

Date.....January 24, 2008

Minutes: Beth Perkins

► The Board met for appointments to the Park Board, Planning Board and Veterans
Burial. Commissioner Grandstaff called the meeting to order and reviewed the applicant
for the District 2 opening on the Park Board.

**Commissioner Chilcott made a motion to appoint Michael Enzler to the Park Board
for District 2 representative term ending December 31, 2009. Commissioner Driscoll
seconded the motion, all voted 'aye'.**

Commissioner Grandstaff reviewed Ben Hillicoss' request for re-appointment. Board
discussion followed regarding term expiration.

**Commissioner Driscoll made a motion to re-appoint Ben Hillicoss to the Planning
Board for Florence School District representative with the term ending December
31, 2009. Commissioner Rokosch seconded the motion, all voted 'aye'.**

Commissioner Grandstaff reviewed the applicants received for the Veterans Burial.

**Commissioner Chilcott made a motion to appoint Ronald Skinner with Timothy
Peterson as alternate to the Veterans Burial with the terms ending December 31,
2009. Commissioner Driscoll seconded the motion, all voted 'aye'.**

► Commissioner Driscoll attended the Tolman Evaluation meeting with staff from
Planning, Civil Counsel, and Clerk & Recorder.

Minutes: Glenda Wiles

► The Board met to discuss the condition of the trees that border Fairgrounds Road. Discussion included a vehicle which was totaled by a falling limb. Mark Lennon a DNRC Community Forester had made a report to the Commissioners on the 19 trees. His reports stated 16 of the 19 trees need to be removed; one of which needs to be removed immediately and two either needs to be removed or monitored for removal. The report further notes the trees are dead or dying and have outlived their lifespan. Commissioner Grandstaff addressed the liability and the public relations issue of removing the trees and replacing them with some community support. Discussion included replanting a different variety of trees such as Ponderosa Pine rather than the cottonwood trees that were planted by Marcus Daly as his legacy to the community. The estimates for removing the trees are between \$1,500 and \$2,500 per tree.

Commissioner Grandstaff stated due to the liability issues it is critical these trees be removed. She noted the trees could be re-planted with community involvement. Commissioner Chilcott agreed the risk needs to be removed in the interest of public health and safety. He stated he supports the concept of replanting the trees with community involvement. He also expressed concern of paying for the removal and replant of mature trees.

Commissioner Rokosch stated he looked into utilizing CTEP funds for tree removal, replant and walkway from the Highway to the High School. Commissioner Grandstaff stated she addressed the use of CTEP funds with Skip Rosenthal but the funding would not be immediate and the trees need to be removed now. Commissioner Rokosch stated there are some left over funds that could be utilized.

Commissioner Chilcott stated the previous Commissioner Boards entered into an agreement with the City utilizing a variance procedure by the city in order to install the entry gates in exchange of \$120-\$150,000 of CTEP funds for Old Corvallis Road. If the county were to utilize any of these funds, the Board should address this with the City first.

Commissioner Driscoll asked if any of the work on Fairgrounds Road by the City a few years ago could have damaged those existing trees. She wants to make sure the removal project is not seen as 'so harsh'.

Commissioner Thompson stated they should not make this any more complicated than it has to be. There is the immediate issue of safety; therefore they need to issue an RFP for the tree removal now.

Citizen Michael Howell stated he has some of these cottonwood trees at his house. They too are in the same state of decay, but the trees are still beautiful and alive. Discussion included the fact that this is a risk that Michael assumes and the county should not put any citizen at risk.

19 trees at \$2,500.00 would calculate out at \$47,900. Commissioner Rokosch suggested they contact the conservation district for the use of these large root wads for river and stream side stabilization.

Commissioner Chilcott stated one of his issues is that Hamilton High School built the school in that location then the county and city build the infrastructure to the school. He also stated he has an issue of the pledged CTEP funds for the City of Hamilton to rebuild Fairgrounds Road. He stated if those funds that were pledged could be utilized for that particular CTEP project he would have no problems, but he is unsure when the City plans to rebuild the road.

Commissioner Thompson stated the City wanted to build a boulevard down Fairgrounds Road, which costs half a million dollars. He has a problem with the residents along that corridor being assessed the special improvement monies to do so, or other county residents for a city project. He stated he has no problems utilizing CTEP funds for this type of a project. He stated when the Board agreed to help the City, the Board of County Commissioners pledged one year's worth of CTEP monies. However, if the City does not move forward, the County should not obligate monies that might not be available in the future.

Michael stated these old cottonwoods can show a lot of signs of decay but they are still viable trees. Thus, he is still inclined to agree with Commissioner Driscoll that this should be a community effort. He suggested they remove the one tree immediately and work on a 'plan' as the forester suggested for the removal that might include the public response and replanting. He stated a public outcry will be heard if the Commissioners spend that kind of money for tree removal when monies are needed for mental health, zoning etc.

Commissioner Chilcott stated the forester report addresses 'critical risk' on most of the trees, the remainder have a 'high risk'; which would lend credibility to any liability issues.

Commissioner Thompson stated the wise and prudent approach is to obtain a Request for Proposal for the removal, pruning etc. of those trees.

Commissioner Chilcott agrees with Commissioner Rokosch to see if the City will partner with the County to utilize some of the CTEP funding for this project and to also encourage community involvement. Commissioner Chilcott stated one issue to review is to see if CTEP funds can be utilized for the tree removal when they are not on the road right of way but on the fairgrounds.

Commissioner Grandstaff stated the Fair Commission is acutely aware that the removal of the trees is a community issue and they have discussed this many times. She stated they do not want to remove any trees until a plan to replace the trees has been agreed upon.

Administrative Director Skip Rosenthal was now present. The Board addressed the use of CTEP funding with Skip. Skip stated he has no idea where the City is in their plans. He stated some CTEP funds are joined with Special Improvement Districts. He also noted CTEP funds can be utilized for easement purchases etc., so the trees being off of the right of way would not be a problem. CTEP funds will pay for landscaping and CTEP funds are to create safe passage for pedestrians and vehicles. The CTEP award does take some time; at least 6 months to make application and approval. The steps that come after that approval are engineering etc. He also noted there are time lines for these projects and they will not reimburse on work that has already been done.

Commissioner Grandstaff suggested they remove the one tree the Forester suggested be done immediately, and then go out to a Request for Proposal for removal or pruning of the balance of the trees. In the meantime, this issue needs to be addressed with the City of Hamilton as soon as possible.

Civil Counsel Alex Beal was now present and advised the Board that they remove the one tree immediately, and then remove the other trees if the Forester concurs and make a community plan for the replacement of the trees.

The Board concurred Commissioner Grandstaff will contact the City in regard to their plans and the Forester in regard to the balance of the trees. Glenda will obtain two bids for tree #15 that needs to be removed immediately, contact MACo and ascertain if any insurance monies can be utilized for the removal of these trees since a claim was submitted on the vehicle that was damaged. Glenda will also work with Commissioner Grandstaff in order to put together an RFP after Commissioner Grandstaff visits with the City.